



Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Illinois Professional Land Surveyor Board

Candidate Examination Guide for:

Professional Land Surveyor

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation along with The Illinois Professional Land Surveyor Board hope that you will find the following information useful in preparing to take examinations that will lead you toward the path of licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor in the State of Illinois.

Effective 11/2021

NOTICE:

Each candidate is responsible for knowing and adhering to these rules regulating the administration of the Professional Land Surveyor examinations. Read all of the following information carefully.

EXAMINATIONS:

Pursuant to Section 1270.20 of the Administrative Rules, there are three examinations that are currently administered and accepted for the Professional Land Surveyor profession in Illinois:

- **For enrollment as a Surveyor Intern:** NCEES Fundamentals of Surveying Examination (FS)
- **For licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor:** NCEES Principles and Practices of Land Surveying Examination (PS) and the Illinois Land Surveying Jurisdictional Examination (IJ).

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) administers all NCEES exams. Examination specifications and dates for the next scheduled FS and PS examinations are available at website at www.ncees.org.

Continental Testing Services, Inc. (CTS) is designated as the authorized exam administration service for the IJ examination. Apply through www.continentaltestinginc.net in order to reserve a seat for the IJ exam. Exam specifications are on page three.

REGISTRATION:

NCEES Exams: Candidates wishing to sit for an NCEES exam must first register with NCEES to sit for the FS or PS exam and then submit your exam approval application to the Department. Once the Board has approved your education, your exam registration will be approved, and you can then schedule your exam.

IJ Exam: Candidates wishing to sit for the IJ exam must first submit your exam approval application to the Department. Once the Board has approved your education, your exam registration will be approved, and you can then register and schedule your exam with CTS.

All candidates use this application packet: [Application for FS, PS & IJ exam approval](#)

Applications are only valid for three (3) years from the date of receipt. You must have an active application to apply for an exam and it must be active on the date of the exam in order for your examination to be validated.

EXAMINATION RESULTS:

DO NOT CALL THE DEPARTMENT IN REGARD TO YOUR EXAMINATION RESULTS.

- The FS and PS examination results should be available within approximately one month from the date of the examination and NCEES will send you an examination score notice via email.
- The IJ examination results should be available within approximately two months from the date of the examination. CTS will send your examination results via U.S. Mail once available.

ILLINOIS LAND SURVEYING JURISDICTIONAL EXAMINATION

The IJ Exam is a paper and pencil exam and is administered multiple times throughout the year.

The exam must be scheduled through CTS.

The Illinois Land Surveying Jurisdictional examination specifications are below.

Content Outline

This is a two-hour, 65-item, **closed** book examination. It is designed to assess each candidate's knowledge of Illinois law, regulations and practices related to public protection issues.

The examination covers the following content areas:

1. Conveyances 6-7 items
2. Plats 8-9 items
3. Federal Instructions & Public Land Survey System 10-11 items
4. Surveys & Legal Descriptions 9-10 items
5. Cities & Counties 4-6 items
6. Records, Recordors, Civil Procedure & Revenue 4-6 items
7. Roads, Bridges & Fences 4-6 items
8. Professions, Occupations & Standards of Practice 2-4 items
9. Special Districts & Natural Resources 2-4 items
10. Canals, Waterways & Drainage 2-4 items

Study Materials:

1. ***2018 Illinois Compiled Statutes & Administrative Rules for the Practice of Professional Land Surveying in the State of Illinois.***
Published by Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association (IPLSA).
Available online and as a book on www.IPLSA.org.
2. ***Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys.***
(Effective February 23, 2016).
Available on the NSPS website at <http://www.nsps.us.com/?page=ALTAACSMStandards>
3. ***Manual of Instructions for the Survey of Public Lands of the United States, 2009***
Available at https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Manual_Of_Surveying_Instructions_2009.pdf
4. ***Restoration of Lost or Obliterated Corners, 1883-1974. Reprinted 1977.***
Available at www.amazon.com
5. ***Wattles, Gurdon H. Writing Legal Descriptions in Conjunction with Survey Boundary Control, 1979.*** Available at www.amazon.com
6. ***Webber, Joe D. Early Public Land Surveys in the Northwest Territory and Procedures for the Retracement of Original Government Surveys in Illinois. 1981.***
Available at www.iplsa.org

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

If you move or change your email address after applying to take the FS or PS exam, you must submit your updated information via email to FPR.DesignUnit@Illinois.gov

If you move after applying to take the IJ examination, you must submit your change of address in writing to:

Continental Testing Services, Inc.

547 South LaGrange Road

LaGrange, IL 60525

STUDY MATERIALS:

NCEES has developed exam preparation materials and study guides for the FS and PS Exams.

Website: <http://ncees.org/exams/study-materials/>

Contact the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association (IPLSA) for exam preparation materials for the IJ Examination. Website: www.iplsa.org

REFERENCE MATERIALS:

Refer to the NCEES website for reference materials.

Exams: <http://ncees.org/exams/>

Exam-day Policies: <http://ncees.org/exams/exam-day-policies/>

NCEES Examinee Guide: <http://ncees.org/exams/cbt/examinee-guide/>

REFRESHER COURSES:

For information on refresher courses, contact the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association (IPLSA)

Phone: 217-528-3053

Website: www.iplsa.org

FAQ's FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR:

http://www.idfpr.com/FAQ/DPR/LS_faq.pdf